

CLAIMS

1. An on-board unit for a vehicle comprising:
a primary communication system, said primary communication system
5 being adapted to communicate with a remote location, said primary communication system being further adapted to detect a stolen condition or receive an indication of a stolen condition;
means for determining whether communication with a central location can be effected; and
10 a secondary communication system, said secondary communication system transmitting a signal including an identification of said on-board unit when communication with said central location cannot be effected.
2. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said primary communication
15 system and said secondary communication system are integrated into a single unit.
3. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said primary communication
20 system and said secondary communication system are separate from each other and in wireless communication with each other.
4. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said on-board unit further
includes a receiver for receiving a signal emitted by another on-board unit, said
on-board unit further including means for determining a position of said on-board
25 unit and for preparing a message including an identification of said other on-board unit, a time and location of receiving said identification of said other on-board unit and an identification of said on-board unit, said message being transmitted to said central location when communication with said central location can be effected.
- 30 5. An on-board unit according to claim 4, wherein said message is stored in a memory until communication with said central location can be effected.

6. A system for locating a stolen vehicle comprising:
at least one vehicle being equipped with an on-board unit according to claim
1;

5 a plurality of receivers adapted to receive said signal, at least one of said
receivers being located on another vehicle.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said system further includes a
plurality of vehicles, at least one of said vehicles being equipped with an on-board
unit according to claim 4.

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8. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said unit further includes a
beacon, said beacon being activated when communication with said central
location cannot be effected.

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